Table of Contents

Chapter 1 F	Purpose and Need	1-1
1.1 Intro	oduction	1-1
1.2 Proj	posed Agency Action	1-1
1.3 Purj 1.3.1	pose and Need for the Action Benefits of the Project	1-1 1-5
1.4 Aut	horizing Actions, Statutes, and Consultations	1-6
1.5 Issu 1.5.1 1.5.2 1.5.3 1.5.4 1.5.5 1.5.6	es to be Addressed Socioeconomic Effects Air Quality Water Resources Noise Infrastructure DEQ Regulatory Actions and Response	1-8 1-8 1-9 1-9 1-9
CHAPTER	2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES	2-1
2.1 Ove	erview	2-1
-	posed Action	2-1
2.2.1	Project Facilities	2-2
2.2.2	System Design	2-10
2.2.3	Additional Auxiliary Equipment	2-24
2.2.4	Construction	2-28
2.2.5	Mitigation Measures	2-38
2.3 Alte	ernatives Considered and Eliminated	2-42
2.3.1	Alternative Fuel Sources	2-42
2.3.2	Alternative Water Supplies	2-42
2.3.3	Alternative Cooling Systems	2-45
2.3.4	Alternative Combustion Systems	2-45
2.3.5	Alternative Solid Waste Systems	2-47
2.3.6	Alternative Wastewater Discharge Systems	2-48
2.3.7	Alternative Emissions Control Systems—Main Boiler	2-48
2.3.8	Alternative Generation Sites	2-49
2.4 Alte	ernatives to the Proposed Action	2-50
2.4.1	Landfill Alternative	2-50
2.4.2	230kV Transmission System Alternative	2-53
2.4.3	No-Action Alternative	2-53

Montana DEQ 11/15/02 i

2.5 C	Comparison of Alternatives	2-53
2.6 S	election of the Preferred Alternative	2-54
Chapter 3	3 Affected Environment	3-1
3.1 In	ntroduction	3-1
3.2 A 3.2.1 3.2.2 3.2.3	Air Resources Overview Inventory Methods Inventory Results	3-1 3-1 3-2 3-2
3.3 V 3.3.1 3.3.2 3.3.3	Vater Resources Overview	3-12 3-12 3-12 3-13
3.4 E 3.4.1 3.4.2 3.4.3	Carth Resources Overview Inventory Methods Inventory Results	3-14 3-14 3-15 3-15
3.5 B 3.5.1 3.5.2 3.5.3	Overview Inventory Methods Inventory Results	3-23 3-23 3-23 3-23
3.6 V 3.6.1 3.6.2 3.6.3	Vildlife Resources Overview Inventory Methods Inventory Results	3-28 3-28 3-28 3-28
3.7 F 3.7.1 3.7.2 3.7.3	Tisheries and Aquatic Resources Overview Inventory Methods Inventory Results	3-31 3-31 3-32 3-32
3.8 C 3.8.1 3.8.2 3.8.3	Cultural Resources Overview Inventory Methods Inventory Results	3-33 3-33 3-34 3-35
3.9 V 3.9.1	Visual Resources Overview	3-36 3-36

ii Montana DEQ 11/15/02

3.9.2 3.9.3	Inventory Methods Inventory Results	3-36 3-39
3.10 N	Voise	3-45
3.10.1		3-45
3.10.1		3-46
3.10.3	Noise Inventory Results	3-47
3.11 L	and Use	3-53
3.11.1	Overview	3-53
3.11.2	5	3-53
3.11.3	Inventory Results	3-53
	ocioeconomics	3-61
3.12.1		3-61
3.12.2		3-61
3.12.3	Socioeconomic Results	3-61
Chapter 4	4 Environmental Consequences	4-1
4.1 Ir	ntroduction	4-1
4.1.1	Impact Assessment Methods	4-1
	Air Resources	4-2
4.2.1	Methods	4-2
4.2.2	1	4-6
4.2.3	Action Alternatives	4-22
4.2.4	C	4-24
4.2.5	No-Action Alternative	4-25
4.3 V	Vater Resources	4-25
4.3.1	Methods	4-25
4.3.2	Proposed Action	4-27
4.3.3	Action Alternatives	4-30
4.3.4	Mitigation Measures	4-30
4.3.5	No-Action Alternative	4-31
4.4 E	Earth Resources	4-31
4.4.1	Methods	4-31
4.4.2	Proposed Action	4-32
4.4.3	Action Alternatives	4-35
4.4.4	Mitigation Measures	4-35
4.4.5	No-Action Alternative	4-37
	Botanical and Wetland Resources	4-37
4.5.1	Methods	4-37
4.5.2	Proposed Action	4-38

Montana DEQ 11/15/02

Action Alternatives	4-43
Mitigation Measures	4-44
No-Action Alternative	4-44
dlife Resources	4-44
Methods	4-44
Proposed Action	4-46
Action Alternatives	4-47
Mitigation Measures	4-47
No-Action Alternative	4-48
neries and Aquatic Resources	4-48
Methods	4-48
Proposed Action	4-49
Action Alternatives	4-50
Mitigation Measures	4-50
No-Action Alternative	4-50
tural Resources	4-50
Methods	4-50
Proposed Action	4-52
Action Alternatives	4-54
Mitigation Measures	4-55
No-Action Alternative	4-55
ual Resources	4-55
Methods	4-55
Proposed Action	4-58
Action Alternatives	4-61
Mitigation Measures	4-61
No-Action Alternative	4-62
se	4-62
Methods	4-62
Proposed Action	4-64
Action Alternatives	4-73
Mitigation Measures	4-74
No-Action Alternative	4-74
d Use	4-74
Methods	4-74
Proposed Action	4-75
Action Alternatives	4-79
Mitigation Measures	4-80
No-Action Alternative	4-80
ioeconomics	4-80
	Mitigation Measures No-Action Alternative dlife Resources Methods Proposed Action Action Alternatives Mitigation Measures No-Action Alternative neries and Aquatic Resources Methods Proposed Action Action Alternatives Mitigation Measures No-Action Alternative tural Resources Methods Proposed Action Action Alternatives Mitigation Measures No-Action Alternative mual Resources Methods Proposed Action Action Alternative mual Resources Methods Proposed Action Action Alternatives Mitigation Measures No-Action Alternative se Methods Proposed Action Action Alternative se Methods Proposed Action Action Alternative duse Methods Proposed Action Action Alternatives Mitigation Measures No-Action Alternative duse Methods Proposed Action Action Alternative duse Methods Proposed Action Action Alternative duse Methods Proposed Action Action Alternatives Mitigation Measures Mitigation Measures Mitigation Measures Mitigation Measures Mitigation Measures Mitigation Measures

iv Montana DEQ 11/15/02

4 10 1	Mathada	4.00
4.12.1 4.12.2	Methods Population and Housing	4-80 4-81
4.12.2	Employment	4-86
4.12.4	Taxes	4-89
4.12.5	Education Services	4-90
4.12.6	Transportation	4-91
4.12.7	Utilities	4-92
4.12.8	Health and Safety	4-92
4.12.9	Well Being	4-93
4.12.10		4-95
4.12.11		4-96
4.13 Irr	reversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources	4-96
4.14 Cı	umulative Impacts	4-97
4.14.1	Overview	4-97
4.14.2	Impacts to Resources	4-99
Chapter 5	Consultation and Coordination	5-1
5.1 In	troduction	5-1
5.2 A	gency Consultation and Coordination	5-1
5.3 Pu	ublic Consultation and Coordination	5-2
5.4 Na	ative American Consultation and Coordination	5-3
Chapter 6	List of Preparers	6-1
Chapter 7	References	7-1
Chapter 8	Acronyms and Glossary	8-1
APPEND	IX A Draft Air Quality Permit	A-1
APPEND	IX B Detailed Cumulative Visibility and PSD Class i increment analyses	B-1

Montana DEQ 11/15/02 v

Tables

Table 1-1	Federal, State, Local Permits, Approvals, and Authorizing Actions	1-6
Table 2-1	Preliminary List of Major Constituents in the Fly Ash and Bottom Ash	2-17
Table 2-2	Electrical Design Characteristics of the Project	2-21
Table 2-3	161kV Transmission Line Construction – Estimated Personnel and Equip	ment
		2-32
Table 2-4	Comparison of Alternatives Considered but Eliminated	2-63
Table 2-5	Alternatives Comparison Summary	2-77
Table 3-1	Generation Plant Study Area Temperature and Precipitation	3-3
Table 3-2	Ambient Air Quality Standards	3-7
Table 3-3	Air Quality Monitoring Data	3-8
Table 3-4	Particulate Monitoring Data (µg/m3)	3-9
Table 3-5	Major Nearby Facilities	3-11
Table 3-6	Site Stratigraphy	3-17
Table 3-7	Soils Engineering Properties and Classifications: Generation Plant Study Musselshell County, Montana	Area, 3-18
Table 3-8	Soils Series Descriptions, Roundup Power Project Disturbance Area	3-19
Table 3-9	Vegetation Community Types	3-27
Table 3-10	Visual Sensitivity Criteria	3-38
Table 3-11	Visual Sensitivity Matrix	3-38
Table 3-12	Transmission System Viewer Inventory	3-44
Table 3-13	Changes in Noise Levels Versus Apparent Changes in Loudness	3-47
Table 3-14	Noise-Sensitive Receptors	3-47
Table 3-15	Measured Ambient Noise Levels Near Receptor Locations Before Construte Bull Mountains Mine No. 1 and Railroad	uction of 3-49
Table 3-16	Approximate Ldn Levels at Receptor Locations Due to the Operation of the Mountains Mine No. 1 and Railroad	he Bull 3-50
Table 3-17	1990 and 2000 Population - Musselshell and Yellowstone Counties and S Areas	elected 3-61
Table 3-18	Population by Age: Bull Mountains Study Area	3-62
Table 3-19	Baseline Economic Projections for Montana, Musselshell County, and Yellowstone County, 2000 to 2020	3-63

vi Montana DEQ 11/15/02

Table 3-20	Employment by Broad Industry Musselshell County Years 1970-1999	3-65
Table 3-21	Employment in Montana, Musselshell County, and Yellowstone County-and 1999	1990 3-68
Table 3-22	Labor Force Statistics Montana, Musselshell County, and Yellowstone Co (Selected Years, 1970-2000)	ounty 3-69
Table 3-23	Per Capita Personal Income, Montana, Musselshell and Yellowstone Cour 1990 and 1999	nties, 3-70
Table 3-24	County and Local Government Revenue and Expenses 1997	3-70
Table 3-25	Taxable Valuation, Tax Mill and Property Taxes Billed Yellowstone and Musselshell Counties and Selected Cities 1999-2000	3-71
Table 3-26	Enrollment by District and School Musselshell and Yellowstone Counties 91 and 2000-01	1990- 3-71
Table 3-27	School Enrollment by Grade, Musselshell County 2000-01	3-73
Table 4-1	National and Montana Ambient Air Quality Standards, PSD Increments a Significance Levels	nd PSD 4-3
Table 4-2	Class I Visibility and Acid Deposition Significance Levels	4-4
Table 4-3	Plant-Wide Source Emission Summary	4-6
Table 4-4	Boiler HAP Emission Inventory	4-7
Table 4-5	Review of BACT Analysis	4-8
Table 4-6	Proposed BACT Emission Limits and Control Technologies	4-9
Table 4-7	Proposed MACT Technology	4-11
Table 4-8	Modeling Parameters and Emission Rates for Roundup Power Project Poi Sources	nt 4-13
Table 4-9	Radius of Impact Analysis Results	4-14
Table 4-10	Visibility Analysis Results for the Roundup Power Project	4-16
Table 4-11	Class I Increment Impacts	4-17
Table 4-12	CALPUFF Modeling Deposition Results	4-18
Table 4-13	Nitrogen and Sulfur Deposition at Critical Class II Receptors Near Yellov National Park	vstone 4-18
Table 4-14	Existing Ambient Air Quality Concentrations Values	4-19
Table 4-15	Screening Analysis for Heavy Metal Deposition in Soils	4-20
Table 4-16	Estimated Roundup Power Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions	4-21
Table 4-17	Estimated Greenhouse Gases in US and from the Project	4-22
Table 4-18	Summary of Potential Impacts to Air Resources	4-23

Montana DEQ 11/15/02

Table 4–19	Summary of Impacts on Geology and Soils from Construction and Operation the Proposed Roundup Power Project	n of 4-33
Table 4-20	Summary of Impacts on Vegetation from Construction and Operation of the Generation Plant	4-40
Table 4-21	Affected Acres by Vegetation Type for the Generation Plant Study Area	4-41
Table 4-22	Resources Within the Viewshed	4-53
Table 4-23	Distance Zones	4-57
Table 4-24	Viewer Impacts	4-57
Table 4-25	Visual Influence of Project Chimneys	4-59
Table 4-26	Roundup Power Project Noise Sources	4-65
Table 4-27	Day Average Noise Levels Due to the Power Project	4-66
Table 4-28	Night Average Noise Levels Due to the Power Project	4-66
Table 4-29	Predicted Day-Night Noise Levels Due to the Power Project	4-67
Table 4-30	Summary of Impacts on Noise Levels from Construction and Operation of the Project	ne 4-68
Table 4-31	Summary of Impacts on Land Use from Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of the Proposed Roundup Power Project	4-79
Table 4-32	Economic Projection Parameters	4-81
Table 4-33	Projected Direct and Secondary Employment, Labor Income, and Population Associated with the Roundup Power Project Musselshell and Yellowstone Counties	n 4-82
Table 4-34	Projected Direct and Secondary Employment, Labor Income and Population Associated with the Bull Mountains Coal Mine Project Musselshell and Yellowstone Counties	4-83
Table 4-35	Projected Direct and Secondary Employment, Labor Income and Population Associated with the Bull Mountains Coal Mine and Roundup Power Project Together Musselshell and Yellowstone Counties	
Table 4-36	Baseline Economic Projections for Montana, Musselshell County, and Yellowstone County 2000 to 2020	4-88
Table 4-37	Summary of Socioeconomic Impacts	4-95
Table 4-38	Potential Emissions from Billings/Laurel SO2 Emission Sources	4-99
Table 4-39	Cumulative NAAQS/MAAQS Impacts	4-100
Table 4-40	Cumulative PSD Class II Increment Impacts	4-101

viii Montana DEQ 11/15/02

Figures

Figure 1-1	Vicinity Map	1-3
Figure 2-1	Visual Simulation Looking North	2-3
Figure 2-2	Plant Layout	2-5
Figure 2-3	Site Design	2-7
Figure 2-4	Schematic Diagram of the Equipment	2-11
Figure 2-5	Generation Plant Water Balance Diagram	2-13
Figure 2-6	Transmission Line Design	2-23
Figure 2-7	Preliminary Roundup Project Schedule	2-29
Figure 2-8	H-Frame Transmission Line Structure Assembly	2-36
Figure 2-9	Transmission Line Wire Pulling	2-37
Figure 2-10	Alternative Solid Waste Disposal Area	2-51
Figure 2-11	Transmission System	2-57
Figure 3-1	Billings WSO, Montana, Wind Rose, 1986-1990	3-5
Figure 3-2	Class I Areas of Concern for the Roundup Power Project	3-11
Figure 3-3	Soils	3-21
Figure 3-4	Vegetation	3-25
Figure 3-5	Sensitive Views	3-41
Figure 3-6	Noise	3-51
Figure 3-7	Land Use	3-55
Figure 4-1	Noise Contours	3-71

Montana DEQ 11/15/02 ix